



Los Angeles County Office of Education

Darline P. Robles, Ph.D.
Superintendent

September 22, 2003

Los Angeles County
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The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisors:

Proposed Formation of an Alhambra Unified School District (USD)
(excluding the Garvey SD)

Pursuant to Education Code (EC) §35765, this letter requests that your Board make an Order, prior to December 1, 2003, to change certain school district boundaries and to cause such order, legal description, and map or plat indicating the boundaries established to be filed with the appropriate governmental offices as requested below.

The Office of the Los Angeles County Counsel (County Counsel) has reviewed this request and supporting documentation noted in the enclosed checklist. Twenty-two copies of this correspondence (11 with enclosures) are provided for distribution by your Board to the appropriate offices.

Background

On October 7, 2002, my office (the Los Angeles County Superintendent of Schools) received a request from the joint governing board of the Alhambra City Elementary and High SDs (Alhambra City SDs) to review a joint petition dated June 18, 2002, requesting unification pursuant to EC §35700(d). The petition specified that the Garvey SD remain a separate feeder elementary district pursuant to EC §35542(b). The proposed formation territory lies within the boundaries of the Alhambra City SDs and would exclude all territory in the Garvey SD.

On September 6, 2002, as County Superintendent, I received a copy of a resolution dated August 29, 2002, passed by the Garvey SD Board of Education certifying that the board did not oppose the proposed unification of the Alhambra City SDs, so long as the Garvey SD would remain a separate and independent entity pursuant to EC §35542(b).

In accordance with EC §35704, on October 8, 2002, staff representing the County Superintendent found the petition to be sufficient and signed as required by law. On November 6, 2002, the petition was presented to the Los Angeles County Committee on School District Organization (County Committee) at its regular meeting and subsequently transmitted to the State Board of Education (SBE) and the Local Area Formation Commission.

In accordance with the requirements of EC §35705, the County Committee held public hearings on December 19, 2002, at the Alhambra City SDs' Administrative Office Board Room and at Garvey SD's Administrative Office Board Room.

The rationale for the formation of an Alhambra USD, as provided by the chief petitioners, is as follows:

- "A. The Alhambra City Elementary School District and the Alhambra City High School District (the "Districts") currently operate with one governing board and a common administration which has studied the potential benefits of unifying (often called the "reorganization" of) the Elementary School District and the High School District. Those benefits include creation of a single basic governmental unit to provide K-12 education in the Alhambra community. This consolidation of local control permits local discretion, permits a single board to be responsible to local needs, and allows for participation of large numbers of community members in the consideration of the goals and objectives for local schools.
- B. The Districts are authorized by law to reorganize themselves into a single unified school district, pursuant to Education Code Sections 35700(d), while preserving the separate identity of the Garvey School District, a "feeder" elementary district, pursuant to Education Code Section 35542(b).
- C. Pursuant to Education Code Section 35700(d), the Garvey School District may subsequently petition to become part of the new proposed unified school district, or remain as a separate elementary school district.
- D. An extensive review by staff of the Districts indicates that the statutory incentive for merger by unification offers the best opportunity for the District to improve efficiency and maximize resources.
- E. This Joint Resolution and Petition is in the best interests of both Districts, all employees and students of the Districts, and the Alhambra community."

EC §35709 specifies that the County Committee may approve such a petition, order the petition be granted, and notify the Board of Supervisors when the conditions enumerated in paragraphs (1) and (10), inclusive, of subdivision (a) of EC §35753 are substantially met.

On March 5, 2003, the County Committee voted that the conditions of EC §35753 had been substantially met, and unanimously approved the unification petition. On April 1, 2003, the petition was transmitted to the SBE.

On June 3, 2003, the joint governing board of the Alhambra City SDs adopted a resolution and petition to request a waiver of elections for reorganization from the SBE, and transmitted the waiver request on June 18, 2003.

On September 11, 2003, the SBE voted to approve the unification and waived the unification and governing board elections.

Action Requested

Accordingly, the County Committee respectfully requests that your Board take the following actions on or before December 1, 2003:

1. Make an Order to change the boundaries of the Alhambra City SDs in accordance with the petitions as required by EC §35765;
2. Cause such Order to be entered in the Los Angeles County's record of school districts;
3. Produce map(s) and legal descriptions of the affected school districts in accordance with Opinion No. 97-706 of the California State Attorney General;
4. Cause a copy of such Order, along with map(s) and legal descriptions indicating such change, to be filed in the following offices and agencies: the Los Angeles County Superintendent of Schools, Assessor, Auditor-Controller, Department of Public Works, and Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk, the Valuation Division of the State Board of Equalization (SBEq), the State Allocation Board, the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, and the affected school districts; and
5. Forward a copy of the check (payable to the SBEq), boundary descriptions, and copies of map(s) and legal descriptions of the affected school districts to the SBEq.

In accordance with EC §35534, for the unification to become effective on July 1, 2004, the above action must be completed prior to December 1, 2003. Actions subsequent to December 1, 2003, will cause the effective date of the change to be delayed to July 1, 2005.

Should you have questions regarding the above or require additional information, please contact Mr. Daniel G. Villanueva, Secretary to the County Committee, at (562) 922-6144.

Respectfully submitted,



Darline P. Robles, Ph.D.
Superintendent

DPR/DGV:mb
Enclosures

cc: Dr. Rivera, Alhambra City SDs
Dr. Standerfer, Alhambra City SDs
Ms. Curtis, County Counsel
Mr. Shelton, Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE)
Ms. Simons, LACOE
Mr. Villanueva, LACOE
Mr. Spies, LACOE
Ms. Deegan, LACOE
Ms. Concklin, LACOE